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etc. Nevertheless, the present translation must be considered as on the whole a very meritorious work, and will no doubt afford much gratification to lovers of mediæval German poetry. "Gudrun" has been undeservedly neglected, although it is inferior only to the "Nibelungenlied."

The sole object of Miss NICHOLS was to give a translation of the poem, true in spirit and in form to the original. It would not be fair to criticise her for what she did not intend to do, although some information—if based on the latest researches—in regard to the original sources of the poem, its connection with the story of Hilde in the Younger Edda and with the account given in the writings of SAXO GRAMMATICUS as well as in other early works, would have been very desirable.

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Manuel de Paléographie latine et française du VI^e au XVII^e siècle, suivi d'un dictionnaire des abréviations, avec 23 fac-similés en phototypie, par MAURICE PROU. Paris: A. Picard. 1890. 8vo, pp. 387.

At first sight, the critical study of such a subject as palæography, in a country in which ancient manuscripts may be said not to exist, might appear to be an affectation. As a matter of fact, however, the American scholar, in view of his growing propensity to do a part of his work abroad, is as likely as another to have practical and first-hand dealings with the original documents. Not for this reason alone, but even more because of the general importance of the subject to a comprehension of the problems of textual criticism and emendation, the young American student who intends to make a specialty of philology has a right to expect an introduction to palæography, as a preliminary to higher work even of the sort that may profitably be done at home. The means available for such a preparation are, it is a pleasure to think, ample and within easy reach. Not to go into details as to the numerous and abundant collections of MS. fac-similes, the latest and, on the whole, best of the handbooks in the field of Latin and Romance palæography, is that of which the title stands at the head of this notice.

The most important respect in which this work is an advance on its predecessors (for example, on CHASSANT in France, WATTENBACH in Germany, PAOLI in Italy) is that it incorporates a considerable number of phototype plates, in every way rivalling, on a small scale, the finest fac-similes of the elaborate collections. These plates are all accompanied by transcriptions, and, of themselves, furnish sufficient material for no mean amount of practice in the task of deciphering texts.

The book opens with a more convenient bibliography than any I know of elsewhere. In fact, before the appearance of this list, the labor of gaining a collective view, up to date, of the titles of everything important bearing on the subject, was far from light. The chapters next following, descriptive of the various styles of mediæval writing, modes of abbreviation, punctuation and correction, systems of numeration, of musical notation, etc., etc., are models of clear and concise statement, offering in an attractive form the essential information on a great variety of topics. In many directions, however, the manual may be regarded as a syllabus rather than as the equivalent of a course of lectures, and will be welcomed, by professor and student alike, only as a useful auxiliary. A valuable feature to beginners is the chapter on the "principales espèces de manuscrits," with succinct definitions of such words as *bréviaire*, *cartulaire*, *graduel*, *livre d'heures*, *ordinaire*, *terrier*.

Nearly one half of the work is taken up with two dictionaries of abbreviations, one of Latin words, the other of French. The comparative brevity of the latter list is significant of the somewhat limited use of the vernacular in documents of a non-literary character. As regards the proportion of French to Latin represented in the fac-similes, the modern speech has not been unduly slighted, some ten of the plates (out of a total of twenty-three) being devoted in whole or in part to picturing the various stages of French palæography.

With its useful and handsome collection of fac-similes, this manual might, in case of necessity, be made by itself the basis of a course of study in Latin or French palæography.

H. A. TODD.